

Message Text

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13-L

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 PRS-01 DRC-01

/075 W

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R 252125Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7490

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, HA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CABINET AND MILITARY CHANGES IN HAITI

REF: P-AU-P 0078

1. POSSIBLE CABINET AND MILITARY CHANGES REPORTED REFTEL WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SHELVED FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL RUMOR MILL IS STILL BUZZING WITH REPORTS OF IMMINENT CABINET SHAKEUP. FORMER FINANCE MINISTER CLOVIS DESINOR, PROMINENTLY MENTIONED IN MOST REPORTS AS LEADING CANDIDATE TO BE NEW SECSTATE FOR FINANCE, INDICATED TO EMBOFF JAN 23 HE HAD NOT BEEN OFFERED CABINET POSITION, BUT SAID HE WOULD SERVE IF NEEDED. (DESINOR'S STATEMENT CONTRASTS WITH OTHER REPORTS COMMON IN PORT-AU-PRINCE TO THE EFFECT THAT DESINOR WAS OFFERED THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO BUT HAD REFUSED, WITH RESULT THAT CABINET CHANGES FAILED TO TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED.)

2. ON POSSIBLE MILITARY CHANGES REPORTED REFTEL, EMBASSY AND DEFENSE ATTACHE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER OF POSSIBLE RETIRMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD COMMANDER GRACIA JACQUES, AND BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY FOR THE TIME BEING. RETIREMENT OF DESSALINES BATTALION COMMANDER BRETON CLAUDE STILL ANTICIPATED, HOWEVER.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DEUVALIER CONTINUES TO RESIST FULL RANGE OF CABINET CHANGES APPARENTLY
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DESIRED BY HIS MOTHER - CHANGES WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO A

SIGNIFICANT STEP BACKWARD FROM GENERALLY "TECHNOCRAT" COMPLEXION
OF PRESENT CABINET. EMBASSY STILL ANTICIPATES SEVERAL CABINET
CHANGES WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO, BUT CHANGES AMOUNTING TO
A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND HIS MOTHER,
RATHER THAN THE FULL RANGE OF CHANGES DESIRED BY MADAME DUVALIER.
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